



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/

For Immediate Release
July 21, 2004

Contact: Kim Erdelyi
517-373-1801

Sen. Hardiman's work on sex-offender laws gains governor's signature

LANSING – Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, today commended the enactment of legislation that more fairly deals with minors convicted of nonviolent criminal sexual conduct while ensuring that violent or repeat offenders remain on the sex-offender registry.

The legislation would allow certain minors and young people to petition the court to be removed from the Sex Offender Registry. The registry allows Michigan residents to search to see if a convicted sex offender lives near them.

“Young people mature as they grow up, and we should recognize that,” Hardiman said. “They should have a second chance if they deserve it while ensuring that violent sex offenders are dealt with strongly. This legislation does that.”

Supporters of the legislation particularly are parents of young people who have been found guilty of age-based, nonviolent sex crimes. Additionally, supporters have shown that young offenders have low levels of recidivism if they receive proper counseling.

These bills won't automatically remove people from the registry. They only allow a person to be able to petition a judge and that judge would have to determine whether he or she qualifies for removal from the list. Other offenders would remain on the registry for 25 years to life.

The law allows those convicted of a sex crime to be removed from the registry if they are no more than three years older than the victim in cases of statutory rape or if the convicted is younger than 13 years old for any criminal sexual conduct offense.

Hardiman chairs the Senate Families and Human Services Committee, which reported the bills.

###